
Appendix A. Definitions and Explanations

Population coverage. This report includes the civilian noninstitutional population of the United States and members of the Armed Forces in the United States living off post or with their families on post. Other members of the Armed Forces are excluded.

Age. The age classification is based on the age of the person at his/her last birthday.

Race. Data are presented for two groups identified on the basis of race: White and Black.

Persons of Hispanic origin. Hispanic persons were identified by a question that asked for self-identification of the person's origin or descent. Respondents were asked to select their origin (and the origin of other household members) from a flashcard listing ethnic origins. Hispanics were those who indicated that their origin was Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or some other Hispanic origin. Hispanic persons may be of any race.

Years of school completed. Data on years of school completed were derived from the combination of answers to questions

concerning the highest grade of school attended by the person and whether that grade was completed.

Worker status. Persons were classified as workers if they received wage or salary income during the month prior to the interview.

Work interruptions. Classifications of persons by frequency, reason for, and duration of work interruptions were based on responses to the set of questions reproduced in appendix C.

Potential work years. Potential work years were defined to equal current age minus years of school completed minus 6 years.

Earnings per hour. Information on earnings per hour was obtained directly for persons paid by the hour. For those not paid by the hour, earnings per hour was calculated by dividing total wages and salaries received during the month by an estimate of total hours worked during the month (number of weeks worked multiplied by usual number of hours worked per week).